

An Amendment— \$30 Million for Works Projects

The Senate Appropriations Committee has reported a bill for the Economic Development Administration, which contains an amendment by Alaska's Senator Ted Stevens, adding \$30 million for public works projects

in areas of high unemployment.

The EDA budget estimate had been \$160 million which was \$30 million short of the 1972 budget.

Stevens argued against the decrease in testimony before the committee saying that the cut affects primarily distressed communities and areas that need more—not less—federal grant money to develop ports, skill centers, water systems and industrial parks as focal points for attracting private businesses with jobs and income.

Stevens said he had become a strong supporter of EDA's goals of the great assistance EDA has been to the State of Alaska.

"The entire state except for the capital city of Juneau is eligible for EDA funds because of the tragically high rate of unemployment, running from 15 per cent or more in Fairbanks to as high as 80 per cent in some of our native villages," he said.

Citing examples such as the fishing industry in smaller communities which have benefited by processing plants and cold storage facilities; dock expansion at Kodiak, Cordova, Seward, Sel-dovia, and Anchorage; industrial parks at Kenai and Anchorage.

Stevens said that the Economic Administration Agency has helped Alaska move forward and more—not less—EDA projects are needed.

Extension Service Districts— Yuko—Kwim and Tanana Valley to Be Consolidated

FAIRBANKS — The Yuko-Kwim and Tanana Valley Cooperative Extension Service districts will be consolidated July 1 to form one district generally corresponding to the geographic area of the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

The consolidation was announced by James Matthews, director of the Cooperative Extension Service, a public service program of the University of Alaska.

The Yuko-Kwim and Tanana Valley district offices, both at different locations in Fairbanks, will be merged at one location (1514 S. Cushman St.) in Fairbanks, Matthews said.

The North Star Borough, City of Fairbanks and Tanana Chiefs Conference are forming an economic development corporation "and it makes a lot of sense to have our staff linked to these kinds of developments," Matthews said.

The Cooperative Extension Service plans eventually to realign all nine of its existing Alaska districts so they will be "fairly congruent" with the native regional corporations authorized by the Native Claims Settlement Act, he said.

Merger of the Yuko-Kwim and Tanana Valley districts will result in one district extending roughly southwestward from Northway and Fort Yukon to McGrath on the Kuskokwim River and Holy Cross on the

Yukon River.

Creation of the new district, Matthews said in a staff memo, "will remove an unnecessary boundary and allow us to serve our native Alaskan residents particularly more effectively if they reside in a rural community or if they move back and forth between such a location and urban areas in the district."

"It has a high potential for allowing us to focus staff resources more effectively on needs of all residents in the areas concerned. Several economies will be effected in the use office facilities including space, secretarial services, and conference facilities. These are important factors in today's economic climate. More importantly, however, we will have one district office in the region as a focus for requests for educational service."

Matthews added that he is attempting to obtain federal and private foundation grants "to secure additional staffing in the areas of government education, leadership, and community development," areas in which there are "some existing opportunities and challenging needs."

Creation of the new larger district "will allow broader opportunities for staff specialization and much greater strength at the district level to meet broad educational program challenges," he said in his memo.

Matthews has named district

agents Ray Morgan and Virgil Severns as chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of a team responsible for total program development in the new district.

In the village areas, the university extension service (through publications and personal contacts) offers expertise on such things as gardening, food preservation, housing construction and repair, the making of clothing, tanning and marketing of furs, and local government functions.

Thorald Schlepppegrell Joins the Navy

Thorald William Schlepppegrell, son of Mrs. Beverly J. Staskanis of Fairbanks, Alaska enlisted in the Navy's Medical Specialty Program for the Navy's Hospitalman Class "A" School where he will receive sixteen weeks of medical training after completion of recruit training at the Naval Training Center, San Diego, California.

He is a 1971 graduate of Highland Park High School, St. Paul, Minnesota, and he attended one semester at the University of Alaska.

Gov. Wm. Egan Asks Branch Of Recreation

JUNEAU—Governor William A. Egan has urged Interior Secretary Rogers Morton to establish in Alaska a branch of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's north-west regional office.

In a letter, Egan told Morton the bureau's program in Alaska has tripled over the past two years and has "made it imperative that we maintain an even closer working relationship" with the regional office in Seattle.

The bureau's work with Alaska includes administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund program, preparation and maintenance of a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, and special studies such as those for scenic rivers and trails.

"The emphasis on outdoor recreation and the environment has increased tremendously," the governor told Morton, and added that additional planning work is necessary now under provisions of the Native Claims Settlement Act.

"We feel there is now more than ample justification for establishment of a branch office ... in Alaska," he said.

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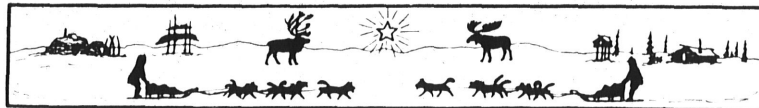
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